



News Release from

**U.S. REP. NANCY JOHNSON
U.S. REP. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
U.S. REP. ROB SIMMONS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SHAYS, JOHNSON, SIMMONS ANNOUNCE FUNDING FOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH PROGRAM EXPANSION
AT VA CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Representatives Christopher Shays, Rob Simmons and Nancy Johnson announced today that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded the VA Connecticut Healthcare System \$250,000 in annual federal funding for clinical programs. The funding will support the enhancement of Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services program for Connecticut’s veterans.

“This program will help us better serve veterans who are struggling with mental illness,” Shays said. “It will be a beneficial service for the men and women who have served our country, helping improve their quality of life. I am grateful for the support.”

“This is another important victory for Connecticut’s veterans,” Johnson said. “We must continue to support our veterans and ensure they receive the benefits, including mental health benefits, they have earned through their service.”

“As a Vietnam Vet, I know that the casualties of war continue long after a soldier returns from the combat zone,” Simmons said. “This funding will not only help those Vets who suffer from the stress of serving our country, but their families, spouses and children will benefit as well.”

“VA Connecticut is proud to provide services to the men and women who served our country. These funds will allow us to continue in our mission of caring for these veterans,” said Roger Johnson, VA Connecticut Healthcare System director.

The expansion will allow the program to include health and wellness, which will help veterans with serious mental illnesses develop better and more informed health and recovery skills. This funding will help to address a full range of chronic health difficulties, from nicotine addiction and weight management, to diabetes, cardiovascular disease, emphysema, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and cancer.

This funding comes on the heels of a recent announcement by the Department of Veterans Affairs that Connecticut’s Rocky Hill veterans facility will receive nearly \$22 million in federal grant funds to help construct a new state veterans care facility and to make infrastructure improvements at the Rocky Hill campus. The \$21,985,495 in federal funding will enable construction of a new \$33.8 million, 125-bed residential health care facility.

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